

Portland, OR 97266

US Environmental Protection Agency
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OREGON OPERATIONS OFFICE

AUG 15 2016

EPA-REGION 10

I do not like the EPA's proposal to dredge major parts of the Willamette River. It is a stupid idea to dig up old pollutants when the river is already shown to be cleaner than it was 10 years ago. However, the EPA is basing most of its plans on research that was conducted over a decade ago. With new information coming in all the time, data that is that old is essentially useless. The EPA should be listening to more current, practical information and common sense. It just isn't common sense to spend at least \$1 billion on a plan that could do more harm than good.

The EPA proposes raising taxes to fund their dredging project. My husband and I are retired and on a very limited income. We could not afford to pay much more in taxes than we already do, and it would be ridiculous to raise taxes when there is a simpler, cheaper way to clean up the river. Furthermore, it would be absurd to close off so much of the river. My husband and I enjoy going there regularly, and the construction site would adversely affect a lot of businesses we visit as well. I am blown away that the EPA could come up with a plan that would hurt Portland's economy so badly.

There has to be a better option to clean up the river than digging up all the pollution and shutting down nearby businesses and recreation sites. My thought is that we should use the least invasive method to clean up the river first and let it continue its natural healing process before using more aggressive approaches. It makes more sense to use this method that we know already works. If it has already been proven to work well, why couldn't the EPA use this method instead? I would like to see them seek more input from Portland residents. We have a right to voice our opinion on these issues, and certainly when it comes to our tax dollars.

Sincerely,

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